

UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE FACT SHEET

Prepared by the Montana National Guard

A recent investigation has found evidence that portions of the Helena Valley were used for military training in the late 1940s and early 1950s; these activities involved firing of live ordnance. Known training areas were periodically searched for ordnance by the Montana National Guard. Not all of the ordnance could be located and removed during these searches. Furthermore, not all old training areas could be precisely located to allow for future cleanup. As a result, some unexploded ordnance (UXO) may still be present in the Helena Valley.

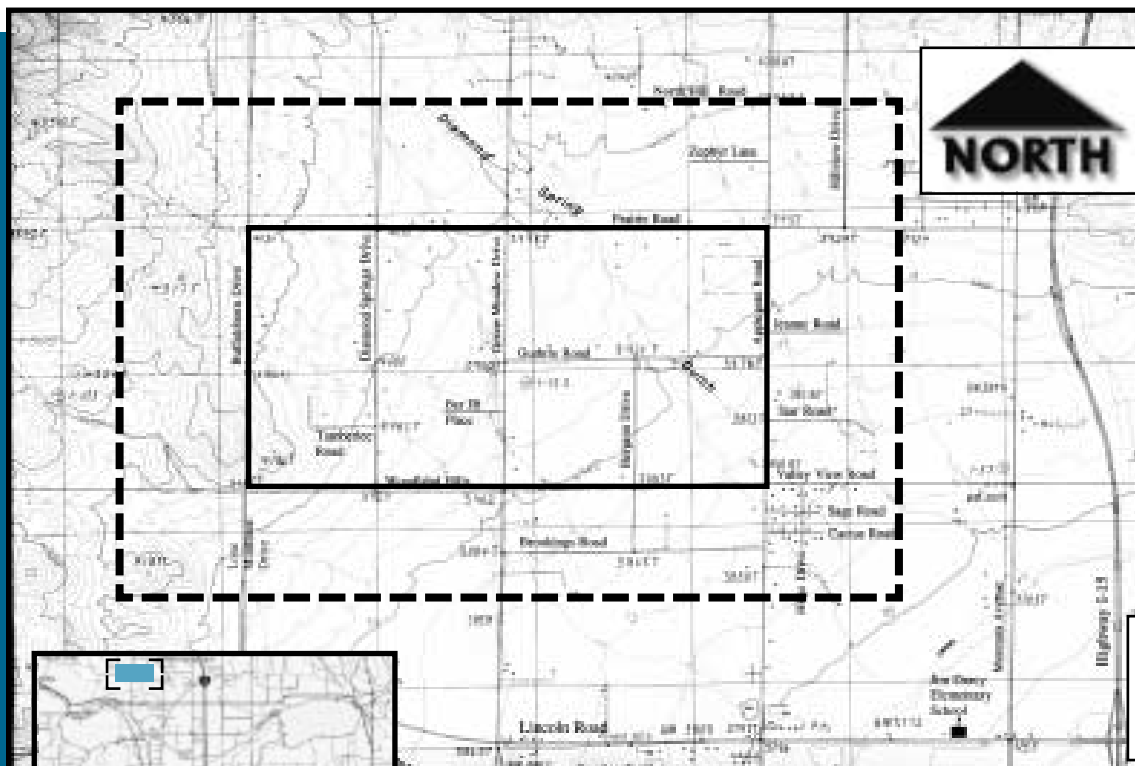
Until a recent investigation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, little information was known about the exact location of former military training areas in the region. The Corps of Engineers conducted interviews with

retired military personnel that helped the Montana National Guard determine the approximate location of one of these former ordnance impact areas in the North Helena Valley.

To protect the public:

- The Montana National Guard is notifying all area property owners of this new information.
- The Montana National Guard is taking steps to determine if UXO is present in this area. Any UXO that is discovered will be safely removed.

This fact sheet describes some of the Montana National Guard's efforts.



UXO does not necessarily exist on your property. Your property is within an area that may have received ordnance impacts in the past and could contain UXO.

SCALE

0 1 MILE

The area highlighted in blue (above) may possibly contain UXO; property owners in the area, as well as owners in a 1/2-mile buffer zone (inside the dashed line), have been notified of the possible presence of UXO. The Montana National Guard is further investigating these areas to protect public safety.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, CALL THE UXO HOTLINE AT (800) 894-4588.
AFTER FEBRUARY 28, 1997, CALL (406) 444-7974.

What is UXO?

UXO is an explosive munition that was fired but did not detonate. UXO in the Helena Valley is from former military troop training or weapons system testing.

- If disturbed by an activity (such as digging with heavy equipment), UXO could detonate.
- There is little likelihood of a UXO detonation from nondisruptive activities, such as walking over an area.

How UXO Appears in the Environment

Some UXO is not visible. UXO can be at the ground surface, or partially or completely buried. Seasonal freeze-thaw cycles can cause buried UXO to migrate to the surface. UXO may also be covered by vegetation, snow, or other matter. Proceed cautiously in areas where the ground is covered.

UXO may appear in parts or in fragments. All UXO, whether intact or in parts, presents a potential hazard.

UXO may be encountered as an isolated munition or as one of many in a given area. If you see any UXO, assume that other UXO is present.

What Should You Do if You See UXO?

1. When you see suspected UXO, stop. Do not move closer.
2. Never attempt to remove anything on or near UXO.
2. Never attempt to touch, move, or disturb UXO.
4. Note the UXO location.
5. Immediately report suspected UXO to the Montana National Guard at (406) 444-6915 or to the County Sheriff's Office at (406) 442-7883.

The Importance of Community Participation

Information and feedback from the community is critical to successfully address this potential UXO hazard. A hotline has been established to answer questions and to collect information on the possible presence of UXO in the Helena Valley.

- Please call our hotline at (800) 894-4588 if you have any information regarding UXO that may help the Montana National Guard. This hotline will be staffed through February 28, 1997. After February 28, 1997, please call (406) 444-7974.
- The Montana National Guard is requesting permission to access your property to gain additional information that may help protect the public. Please complete the attached card, which serves either to grant or deny access to your property. The card should be mailed by February 15, 1997.

Summary of Important Telephone Numbers

To obtain additional information about the possible presence of UXO in the Helena Valley, call:			
(800)894-4588	UXO Hotline	Mon. - Fri. / 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (through February 28, 1997)	
(406) 444-7974	Montana National Guard Project Specialist	Mon. - Fri. / 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (after February 28, 1997)	
To report a suspected UXO item, call:			
(406) 444-6915	Montana National Guard Staff Duty Officer	24 Hours/Day	
(406) 442-7883	County Sheriff's Office	24 Hours/Day	

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76 mm
(Approximately 3 inches)

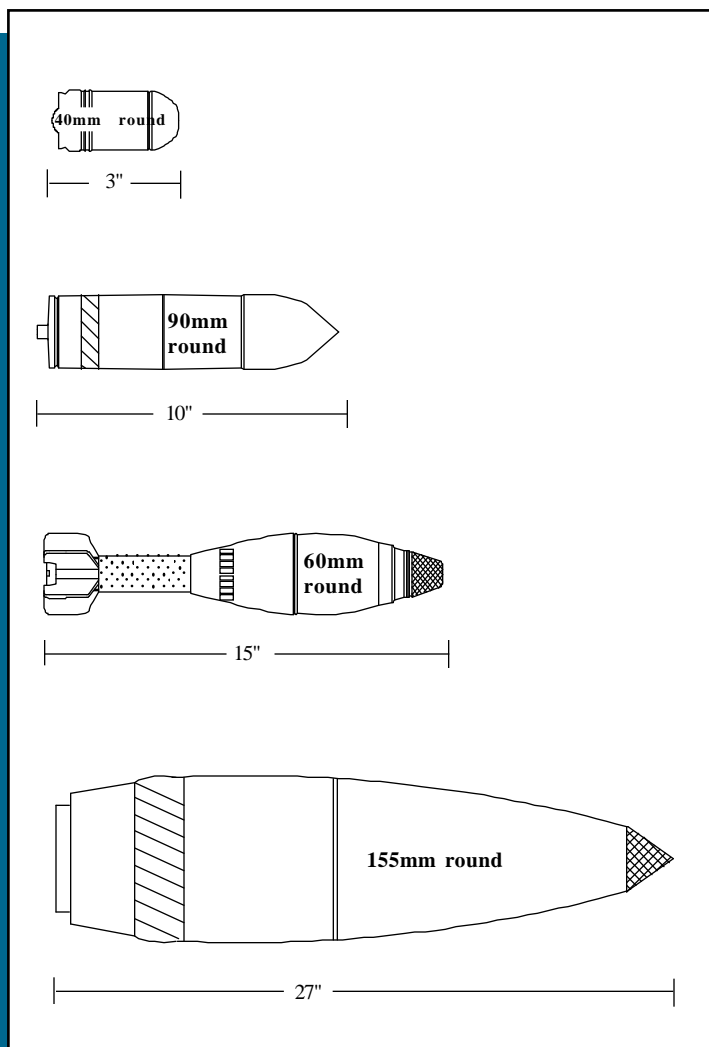
What Does UXO Look Like?

UXO comes in all shapes and sizes – from small bullets to large bombs. A photograph of a 76 millimeter tank round appears to the left. This round contains high explosives. Based on recent interviews conducted by the Corps of Engineers, this is the type of ordnance most likely to be present in the Helena Valley area. The UXO in this photograph is shown as actual size.

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What Does UXO Look Like? (Continued)

Illustrated below are other common types of UXO. Based on information from the Corps of Engineers, however, these types of UXO are not suspected to be present in the Helena Valley.



What the Montana National Guard is Doing to Address UXO in the Area

The Montana National Guard is involved in many activities to address the possible presence of UXO in the Helena Valley.

- To verify information from the Corps of Engineers and to gather additional information, the Montana National Guard is conducting interviews with current and former National Guard employees, local residents, and law enforcement authorities.

These interviews will better identify the types of UXO that were used in the 1940s and 1950s and where UXO may be located.

- Beginning in the spring of 1997, the Montana National Guard will be conducting UXO searches of many parcels of land in the Helena Valley.

The Montana National Guard will first conduct UXO searches in areas of potential concern, as identified by the interviews. These searches will be conducted by specially trained Montana National Guard personnel who may use equipment designed to locate UXO beneath the surface.

- If UXO is found, the Montana National Guard will arrange to have it removed safely and with minimal disruption.

If you see an object that looks anything like the photograph and illustrations depicted in this fact sheet, call the Montana National Guard immediately at (406) 444-6915, or call your local law enforcement authorities at (406) 442-7883.